

Approved
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGETS
April 18, 2016

The Wethersfield Town Council held a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for 2016-2017 at the meeting of Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Bello, Hemmann, Hurley, Latina, Martino, Rell, Spinella, Deputy Mayor Barry and Mayor Montinieri.

Also present: Michael O'Neil, Finance Director; Brook Berry, Library Director; Kathy Bagley, Director of Social & Youth Services; Erica Texeira, Assistant Director of Social & Youth Services; Stephanie Askeland, Manager of Human Resources; Michael Emmett, Superintendent of Schools; Sally Dastoli, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Matthew Kozaka, Business Manager; Emily Daigle Director of Special Services; Fredrick Bushey, Jr., Director of Maintenance & Operations; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager; Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Also present, Board of Education: Bobbie Granato, Chairperson; John Morris, Vice Chairperson-Secretary; Diane Fitzpatrick; Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise; Polly Moon; Matthew Forrest; Kevin Hill and Janet Vasel. Absent: John Cascio.

Mayor Montinieri opened the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Barry led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation of abridged version of Board of Education 2016-2017 proposed budget by Superintendent Michael Emmett. Chairperson Granato and Superintendent Emmett participated in presenting the Board of Education proposed budget for 2016-2017 school year.

(see Power Point attachment #1).

Presentation of Town Manager's 2016-2017 proposed budgets by Town Manager Jeff Bridges.

(see Power Point attachment #2).

PUBLIC HEARING

IN ATTENDANCE:

Carolyn Vallieres of 4 Wilcox Street stated she was the co-chairman of the Friends of the Wethersfield Library and one of the special elements of a town is the Library. In 2018 the Wethersfield Library will be celebrating its 235th anniversary and we would like you to participate in a big blowout party. The Friends of the Library over the years have done book sales, the book nook and various other ways they have been raising money and have since 2003 up to the present time donated \$203,369 which they have used for programs, furnishings and

other items for the Library. She understands that the budget for the Library is a flat budget except for the mandated salary items. She asked them to not cut that budget because there is no way of operating with a lower budget. Our membership is made up of mainly retired and elderly people. We have about 180 members and we have maybe 70 volunteers working at book sales, etc. Our next book sale is at the end of this month, the 30th of April to 1st of May. We are inundated with books – we have sorted them and they will be in categories. We are perfecting our book sales. We will have a Thursday night preview and this is the time when we see the dealers come so we charge them \$5.00 to come in. As far as volunteer hours go, if you gave our volunteers a salary of \$15.00/hr. which people are saying is the average, probably it's well over \$100,000 in free labor given in a year from these seniors and retired people. We are the only ones funding the summer programs. We have wonderful summer programs at the Library and that money is coming from the book sales. Also we have the museum passes which are free to use, as we pay for those. So these are elements of programs that we really need for our community and for the people who come to the Library. She thinks it is a shame that our Library is only open three evenings a week; and most other Libraries in Connecticut are open at least one other night a week. That's her support for the Library and hopes that the budget will remain as requested.

Martha Mayer of 133 Griswold Road stated that she is a town resident, a user of the Library and a volunteer with Friends. She is in favor of the proposed budget which is just an increase over last year of less than 2½% according to her arithmetic. The values presented in the online budget, and after more than 30 years as an environmental consultant using public libraries all over this country and in other countries, she can tell you that the clear sign of what a town thinks of itself, is its Library. We have a great Library and she wants Council to just vote the budget please.

Patti Silva of 24 Hillcrest Avenue & Lisa Flynn of 19 Nathaniel Drive would like to voice their support for the Library budget which is a valuable resource for everyone in our community and it should definitely be fully funded. They also wanted to voice their support for the 1.97% proposed increase to the Board of Education 2016-2017 school budget. They think all of the programming is valuable and needs to be kept. They wish that it could be fully funded and that there were no eliminations at all. They don't think it goes far enough. As parents of juniors at the high school who receive special education services, there are a few important issues they want to share. There were many concerns over a previous proposed site for the relocation of the Wethersfield Transition Academy. After viewing the property at 370 Silas Deane Highway, families of current and prospective future students unanimously gave their approval of the site as a new location for the Transition Academy. They wanted to thank the Council for all their work and helping them get through this process and all the assistance in helping it come along. They respectfully request that the Council fully fund the lease for the first and second floors of the site so that the students can be taught in the same appropriate high quality educational environment that the rest of their typical peers enjoy. There is, however, an issue that could prevent this innovative program from growing and reaching its full potential: lack of accessibility. There is currently no elevator access to the second floor. This is a barrier not only for students and staff but also for community members who would be utilizing the location. At the March 15th Planning & Zoning hearing, Commission members asked some very pointed questions centered around accessibility, whether the location would pass muster with ADA, etc. They specifically asked if parents were okay with the location which we assured them that we were. They heard

our concerns about the lack of elevator and when they realized that the question hadn't been answered. One member of Planning & Zoning made the observation that he thought they were dancing around the elevator issue. Another member suggested that the Board of Education look into eligibility for school facilities upgrade reimbursement from the State and that possibly with a twenty year lease, this project might qualify. Mr. Bushey stated that he would talk to the owner and look into pursuing grants. This same conversation continued into the hallway after the hearing among the Board of Education administration and parents with all parties agreeing that this would be the course of action. To this date, this has not happened due to lack of funding. We ask that Council and Board of Education members consider providing additional funding for a feasibility study to assess the possibility of adding an elevator so that the second floor leased space can be useable and accessible to all persons especially those with physical disabilities. Every school and community building in town with more than one floor has been made accessible to persons with physical disabilities and we hope that this building will be no different. While we understand that the primary goal is to get the WTA up and running at the new location for the fall, they will not be utilizing the second floor yet for student programing. We hope that you will consider this important issue. Our second concern is the fact that there is currently no funding for high school unified sports in the 2016-17 proposed budget. We believe the amount requested was approximately \$4,800. The plain fact is that while Wethersfield has always been celebrated as an exclusive community, the majority of students with special needs are either unable or not allowed to fully participate in regular competitive athletic activities. There is a line item in the proposed budget for \$46,275 in athletic supplies. The question begs to be asked how can we fund that but not \$4,800 for athletics for students with special needs. Please think about the message this sends about the value of our children to our community. Unified sports are their chance to compete alongside their typical friends and students so why is this funding not being included. Please do the right thing and restore \$4,800 to be used for high school unified sports. Thank you very much.

Tom Mazzarella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road stated that he has been a resident of Wethersfield most of his life and he is a product of the Wethersfield school system which has served him well. He is here tonight speaking in opposition to the proposed town budget as presented at the last meeting. He wants to commend Mr. Bridges and his staff for the work in preparing the town budget. He has read the 200+ pages and he used last year's budget so he saved on paper. He read it and found it to be clear, concise and easy to follow and while he doesn't agree with the amount of spending proposed the presentation was excellent. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the Board of Education proposal. He has a real problem with the standardizing of the accounts. Transition, during the budget season, the reader can't follow where the money was coming from as opposed to last year. He has been speaking about financial deterioration that's been festering at the State Capitol. And now the Governor says we are going to need to make drastic cuts in spending. So where are we going to get that extra money. It will fall on the taxpayers to come up with the shortfall. and it is only going to get worse next year. So we need to reduce our spending now. If you approve the budget as presented, each department will just continue to spend and it will be business as usual. You do not have the authority to pick and choose line items; therefore you need to reject the BOE budget as presented. The Superintendent stated that much of the budget is due to contractual increases and salary and benefits yet he proposes adding nine new positions when the enrollment increases are estimated at twelve students. We need to limit raises to match the current economy. He believes providing

a good education is key to the success of our town. But the cost of education is beginning to consume the entire budget. Some say that you can't limit school spending if you want to attract people to town. You also need to keep taxes affordable to attract new buyers and retain the current ones.

Bob Woodward of 456 Middletown Avenue stated he has lived there for 38 years. He is very disappointed in this budget. Last fall there was talk of stabilized taxes and help for senior citizens. This budget fails to do that. Senior citizens received zero dollar increase in social security. Medicare was not supposed to increase, but for some people it did. At this point, not even four months into this calendar year expenses have exceeded income. If we are to pay the increase on this tax bill, we will have to take it out of reserves and he resents some of the things that he will have to take out of reserves to pay. This budget is going to increase the town surplus at the cost of our surplus. There is no way we should have to pay that. That's inequitable; it's a violation of our rights under the Declaration of Independence which is the foundational document that guarantees us some security in this country. If you could hold the increase really to below one mill, it would help a lot. Last year you reported a surplus of one million dollars in the town budget. The Board of Education reported a three quarters of a million dollar surplus. Money that you did not need. Every citizen of this town could have used that extra money to come back to them. One nearby town, set a guideline, if the budget in one year has a surplus, then next year's budget starts at the previous year's budget minus the surplus. He hopes that the budgets for Wethersfield could do it here. Are you aware that despite sixty some new businesses that opened that six or seven businesses including three long term businesses on the south end of Silas Deane are now closed within the past year? He really hopes that you realize that when you make promises they mean something to us out in the town. What might it say to the outside businesses that want to come in? What might it say about the town of Wethersfield not only caring about for its citizens but being a stable place to live and do business? The town might grow if we could take the mill rate down. Please play better with our money this year than you did last year. He hopes you will find the wisdom and courage to do that.

Dorene Ciarcia of 194 Garden Street stated that she is the Chair of the Wethersfield Library Board and speaking in that capacity. She wanted to thank for those who spoke in favor of the budget before her, Carolyn and Martha from the Friends, and thanked them for their support. Overall the Library's proposed budget for the next fiscal year is 1.97 million dollars that is an increase of just \$47,867 or 2.4%. Of that amount, \$46,386 is for personnel services and just under \$1,500 is for everything else meaning any books, collections, programs, etc. To give you an idea of the people the Library serves, we serve the whole community whether it's adults, teens, children, anybody and everybody is welcome. Last year we had 176,072 people visit which is about 500 visitors a day who enter the Library. We had just over 351,000 items borrowed and for those adults and teens who needed reference questions answered we answered 28,500 of those. As far as programs, we had 369 programs offered by the children's department and more than 12,000 children and families took part in some aspect of those programs. Teens and adults had 130 programs and 1,500 people attended those. The Library is not just about books anymore. We have a lot of internet and Wi-Fi users. Last year the internet computers were used 39,600 times and for Wi-Fi access we had 890 users a month who took advantage of it. So we have a wide range of users in the Library and we are open to everybody so we have a

very modest increase in our proposed budget and she thanks you for your consideration in adopting that budget.

Tammy Breard of 254 Wells Road wanted to thank everyone for all the work done on putting the presentations together. She does not envy the job on determining the best course of action for this town and for the citizens. She was there to ask for their support in passing of the education budget. The education budget supports, among other things, the addition of two 6th grade teachers. Imagine classrooms with up to 30 students; increased behavioral issues in classrooms; increased noise and volume within the classrooms, all of which will limit student's including her own son's ability to access the curriculum. In order for our 6th graders to successfully transition into the Middle School, it is vitally important that these students have a positive, supportive learning environment. She does understand the impact of these budget discussions and she does understand the fiscal problems that we are facing but we can't balance that budget on the backs of our kids.

Jay Hallinan of 404 Brimfield Road was here to advocate for support for maintaining the third teacher at Emerson-Williams for the 6th graders next year. It is important to keep the class sizes lower than 20 students and he thinks if we don't have the third teacher it gets up to somewhere of between 25 or 26 kids. We had that for a portion of this previous year and kids react differently to the number of kids in class size. Some kids may not have an issue with it, but there will be some that really will have an inordinate amount of difficulty in that environment.

Martha Conneely of 12 Fairmont Street commented that she was there as Vice Chair of the Library Board in support of the Library budget. Time and time again the people of Wethersfield have shown that they value the vital role that the Library plays within our community. Wethersfield Public Library is a highly relevant and engaging community hub that promotes lifelong learning in literacy, brings people and ideas together. A very special thanks to our Friends of the Library, we could not run our programs without them; their contributions are immeasurable. The Library Board is proudly coming to you with a fiscally responsible budget that they have given their unanimous bipartisan support. Their proposal is the result of a tireless effort by the Library Director, Brook Berry and her staff to deliver the best services to Wethersfield residents while keeping these costs of those services in check. As mentioned by our chair, the \$47,000 increase we are requesting tonight will almost entirely be devoted for maintaining our staff, library hours and our current level of services. Wethersfield Public Library's goals are to provide supportive, creative learning spaces for people of all ages, help to produce stronger students and a better trained work force and to ensure equal access for every member of our community especially access to technologies that are key to economic success. It's that vision that guides our budget priorities. One of the key ways we serve our patrons is through our online presence. The only town departments with longer hours of operation than the Library are the Police and Fire Departments. Even when the Library building is physically closed, technology keeps us open for business. After we close our doors at night and before we open them in the morning patrons are still able to sit outside our building and use their library cards to sign into Wi-Fi and at any hour of the day you can also still access our online collection from the comfort of your own home by using your library card to connect with online resources. The power of these online resources really hit home with me this year when she was doing some research for a work presentation she made on behalf of the Wethersfield Early Childhood

Collaborative and delivered right here in this chamber. She wanted to do something other than a power point presentation for that so she tried to use a website call Presy which was an epic fail but then she recalled that Brook Berry told her about a new program called Linda.com. which allows you to work at your own pace. She was able to sign in via the Library website, using her Library card take a course and was able to produce a presentation. This is just a tip of the iceberg for online resources. The Library's budget is a fraction of the size of the town and school budget and they watch every penny of it. We hope you will see fit to fully fund the Library budget and they promise to stretch every dollar as far as they can. As a parent, she also is a strong supporter of the schools and the school budget. Investing in early childhood provides a strong foundation for our children, small class sizes and security personnel are necessary. Please support the school budget.

Geri-Lynne Gagne of 74 Harris Hill Road commented that she is in favor of the proposed budget for the Board of Education.

Kim Fiorino of 981 Ridge Road supports the Superintendent's proposed budget. Her son has directly benefited from an extra class in his 5th grade at Emerson-Williams. She doesn't want him to have 25+ students in his 6th grade class next year.

Michael Liska of 814 Ridge Road stated he moved to the Glastonbury portion of Wethersfield in 1970 and moved to Old Wethersfield in 1977 and attended the Middle School and the High School. It has been a great town to live in. He has a lot of high hopes for Wethersfield. All the figures keep going up, up and up. The State has started to lay people off and we spent nicely on the high school and now the elementary schools are in sore maintenance shape. We guessed wrong. The economy hasn't bounced back. We are not sustainable. We know there will be less money coming from the State. He thinks we should have a zero percent increase. We have spent these percent increases for the past four years. Pay increases aren't going up with these increases year after year. A zero percent increase to allow people to spend more money and it will encourage growth in businesses coming into town or at least flat for one year and see what happens.

Rich Chamberland of 18 Highcrest Road was there to express his concerns and caring about his child's safety. The budget cuts don't help that. He sees \$50,000 capital improvement for schools which is a penny in the bucket. Our elementary schools are falling apart, the safety of our kids and the integrity of the school itself is horrible. His child goes to Highcrest and just seeing how the function of the school goes it concerns him. The staff is doing a great job and improvising different plans with using teachers in the front corridors and upon entry parents having to sign in which is a big step from last year. We are talking about the value of our properties, what about the value of our kids. We can't replace that. We need to improve these schools, mainly entrances. In the budget, there are possibly positions for six security guards – that could work, just something there to deter anybody who has an interest in doing harm to our kids.

Jennifer Murrihy of 286 Fox Hill Road commented that she is an actively involved member of our community. Professionally she is an education specialist. She passionately advocates for improving the quality of life in our town, allowing us to raise the next generation of active

citizens. She works with many districts and Wethersfield is not necessarily at the forefront. She wants our town to be the place that people want to come. With underfunded schools and library, we don't have the ability to prepare our children, which is the public schools purpose. We cannot participate in a democracy without raising children to be participants in the process of debate, discussion and presenting ideas. With underfunded schools, we do not have the capacity to protect our children. The proposed budget provides the quality of life we want for our children as we raise them to be citizens of Wethersfield.

Diana Iannucci of 75 Oakdale Street stated that she is in favor of the school budget; that safety is a non-negotiable item; keeping our class sizes down; and the continuing education for our staff. Their dedication that they have shown has been second to none so she wants to show her support for the Board of Education.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road stated that in reviewing the budget for the town, he found it to be quite sparse. He has been asking what our grand list increase would be this year and would have expected it to be in here. Most of these costs are what you call fixed. No resolution except for continuation of spending. Now economic reality has set in. The power to tax and that's where we are today. A zero percent tax increase - no it should be a minus 10% of what your current budget has been. The Board of Education budget should be reduced. Make good with what you have. And then the increase of 4.2% in salary, who made that kind of increases? Things don't change around here except our taxes keep going up. In the Board of Education budget the numbers of students don't seem to add up. Pupils for Choice, where students from other towns come here; he doesn't see anything in the budget for that. He recommends a 10 percent reduction in the budget because last year there was a surplus which is still there, so therefore there is no shortchange for our students.

Gus Colantonio of 16 Morrison Avenue stated that the only thing he agreed with was the Library budget because the Library is the best place in town. Regarding the rest of the budget, he has been here since 1973 and the taxes never go down. He understands that the kids' need a good education but he also knows that education starts at home but the Board of Education can't do it all. Why is it that in Wethersfield there are more houses for sale than our surrounding towns. Could it be for the taxes or could it be the way Wethersfield looks. He agrees the budget should be below zero.

Jim Kulpa of 239 Crest Street commented that he thinks that what we get for services that are provided is a good value compared to surrounding towns. He knows it's a tough job to come up with a budget but he agrees with it as it is presented. He thinks it is a decent balance given the constraints you are working with. He would like to ask that they consider policies to grow the grand list so to permit staff to be innovative with saving money with respect to purchasing requirements. Also if there are any surplus maybe potentially have it go towards growing the fund balance to get that bond rating up and possibly refinancing or debt service. He is in favor.

2nd TIME SPEAKERS:

Michael Liska of 814 Ridge Road commented that we are not the only town wrestling with their budget. Newington, Avon and Enfield are all wrestling with it. We are all in the same harbor here in Connecticut.

Jennifer Murrihy of 286 Fox Hill Road stated that the Choice program was brought up as a question. She does know that the money from students who are allowed to attend Wethersfield schools is an actual income for the town. The previous district where she worked was able to fully fund a preschool program and go one to one technology because of taking in money from the Choice program. That is another creative way to enhance the town budget. And to address the amount of homes for sale in our town, most real estate agents would likely tell you that most buyers are really looking for high quality schools. When we don't pay our teachers at least the same of what the surrounding towns, we lose out on high quality innovative educators who can do a lot with limited resources. The Library and our schools is really a cornerstone of our community. We need to provide the resources and find creative ways to find additional money to provide schools and teachers what they need.

Robert Young of 20 Coppermill Road commented that he thought we pay our teachers well. He can't believe that we are not doing everything for our children. As a matter of fact he thinks we are going way overboard for our children again. The only reason today we are down to 1.97% now is because we have run out of money. We have so much debt in this state that we are in drastic trouble. The only way to turn it around is not to rehire. People leave, so do the best with what you have. The state and town go into these contractual agreements, knowing they can't afford it; they just tax the people in town. He asks Council to bring that budget down 10%.

Barbara Coppa of 86 Merriman Road stated that she is the person a lot of people are talking about here. She lived in Newington for 40 years of her life and she was shocked when she walked into Highcrest School. The quality of the school and the building is in duress; but the high school has been repaired. It was a draw for her and her family because there are programs and opportunities here. She thinks the Board of Education is doing a good job. She urged that they not cut teachers. We have to make sure that there is a base for our children here. She truly believes that if you cut anything out of their budget, it hurts the kids.

Tom Mazzearella of 600 Wolcott Hill Road commented the Charter requires that you have this meeting. It is open to all the townspeople to voice their opinions and that it has to be approved by May 15. He wonders if what everybody is saying tonight has an affect or are we just spinning our wheels. Looking at the audience, there are maybe 50 people here out of the whole town. Try to vote on the budget based on what you heard tonight.

VIA EMAIL:

Noemi Rodriguez of 26 Mayfield Road supports the BOE in asking for a 1.97% increase.

Marjorie Carson of 12 Avalon Place completely supports Mr. Emmett's budget that was passed by the BOE. She doesn't think any reductions should be made from this proposed budget

because it's already a budget that is cutting certain areas of the school system. She doesn't want more cuts that will cut teachers. She encourages keeping the BOE's budget as is.

Stephanie Cyr of 78 Dusty Lane supports the education increase.

Mary Pelletier of 61 State Street asked that you not increase taxes again this year. Wethersfield already has one of the highest mill rates in the area, which potentially has a negative impact on property values in town. As the mother of young children, she is aware that people will be asking to increase school spending due to erroneous information. It is her understanding, however, that the schools had a massive surplus this past year, that energy costs have been falling and that older higher paid teachers will be retiring and will be replaced by younger, less costly teachers. Therefore, she would be comfortable with no increase in the school budget this year. She also hopes you will consider reducing or eliminating the proposed appropriation to the unassigned fund balance this year since the existing fund balance appears to be in excess of the recommended amount according to the town's governmental fund balance policy. Raising taxes on residents to push the unassigned fund balance above the standard thresholds seems unnecessary, when the amount currently in the fund appears to be sufficient and well within the ideal range, as determined by credit agencies and the town's own policy. She would support reductions in spending in other areas as well, and she hopes you can find some meaningful way to minimize the increasing tax burden on town residents.

Amy Blanco of 81 Surrey Drive supports the BOE's request for a 1.97% increase in the budget.

Hannah Granfield of 78 Buckland Road supports the Town of Wethersfield Board of Education budget.

Pamela Molochko of 37 Church Street urged the Council to take seriously the BOE's budget increase request. We need to invest in our future by investing in the education of our children today!

Christine Sousa of 755 Maple Street is very much in favor of passing the Board of Education budget with the increase. Passing the budget without an increase will result in larger class sizes. With three children in the school system, she is not comfortable with larger class sizes and stretching the staff we have any more than they already are.

Colleen Mattatall of 124 Wheeler Road supports the Education budget (as proposed) with a 1.97 increase from last year.

Shana Smith of 227 Pine Lane is strongly in favor of the proposed BOE budget increase.

Kathleen Peacock of 101 Ridge Crest Circle is in favor of the proposed budget as she does not want to see cuts being made that will be detrimental to her children's learning experiences. As a parent of Emerson-Williams, she would like to see the secretary's hours increased to 29 hours and be able to keep our security employee and keep the class size for the upcoming 6th grades low and keep three teachers employed.

Sarah Westergard of 11 Hartford Avenue is in favor of the proposed 1.97% increase for the town's education budget. She does NOT support a budget freeze. Give our children what they deserve!

Suzanne Barton of 55 Main Street is in support of passing the schools budget. We must ensure our future of the children of Wethersfield and keep our schools well-staffed.

Rachel Novak of 334 Ridge Road is in favor of passing the school budget.

Caryn Doten of 61 Center Street commented that as a parent and taxpayer she strongly urges you to approve the 1.97% budget increase for the Board of Education. The Board of Ed has worked hard to keep the increase as small as possible. We cannot allow for staff or teacher cuts with current class sizes being so large and services being stretched so thin. Please work to make this increase possible. Thank you.

Kristen Wands of 4 Avalon Place supports the Education budget! Would hate to lose any more school services or teachers. Great schools make great communities!

Dana Sorvillo of 77 Chamberlain Road is in support of the Board of Education budget increase of 1.97%. It would be detrimental to the education of our children to cut teachers and staff.

Luke & Mary Kay Jensen of 23 Quail Hill support Wethersfield schools and teachers. We support a budget increase. Thank you.

Kimberly Bobin of 83 Longvue Drive supports the Superintendent's budget as proposed. Kind regards.

Colin Hill of 117 Randy Lane is in favor of the proposed BOE budget increase.

Frances Schwarzhaupt of 49 Midwell Road supports the BOE proposal to increase their budget. As a mother of a six year old and a two year old, her children's education is the utmost importance to her. She feels the increase is very reasonable and should be granted to the BOE in order for them to continue and/or improve their ability to provide the best education possible for her child. She would be greatly disappointed in this lovely town if it did not show support to our schools. Thank you for considering and listening to my opinion.

Kristi Pedneault of 26 Fairmont Street stated that the BOE is asking for a very reasonable increase to continue to provide the same level of educational quality to our students. Anything less would mean cutting the quality of education in Wethersfield (which would impact all of us in terms of property value and quality of life). Please support the BOE's mission and budget requests.

Chrissy Pikos of 132 Rutledge Road is in support of the BOE proposed budget increase of 1.97%. She believes this increase will allow the elementary school to have a security officer, and increase in clerk hours from 25 to 29 and a third teacher for our 2016-2017 6th grade class. She feels these changes are important to Emerson-Williams and our other elementary schools.

Kate Miller of 563 Goff Road hopes to have gifted and talented programs.

Beth Reilly of 12 Hubbard Place supports a 2% budget increase for the Board of Ed. Give the students and teachers what they deserve!

Steve Deyo of 12 Hubbard Place supports the 1.97% increase to the BOE budget.

Kim Fleury of 433 Coppermill Road would like to see the 1.97% increase to the school budget passed. If we don't invest in education, then we don't invest in our children and therefore our future.

Heather Thomas of 637 Maple Street supports a 1.97% increase in the BOE budget.

Jason & Dawn Silver of 839 Nott Street support the budget increase of 1.97%.

Kate Adams of 65 Dale Road states that as a lifetime resident of Wethersfield, she fully supports the 1.97% Board of Education budget increase. Thank you.

Peggy Collette of 46 Grandview Terrace supports the 1.97% increase in the BOE budget.

EMAIL ARRIVED ON 4-19-2016:

Stacey & Scott Tiner of 47 Harmund Place support the Superintendent's proposed budget. We believe he is asking for an appropriate amount of money to continue running our schools. The education of Wethersfield's children is a priority and we appreciate the support of the Town Council. Please agree to the Superintendent's proposed budget. Thank you for all you do to support and fun our town.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., Councilor Martino moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY VOTE OF COUNCIL (7-0-0)
(Absent: Deputy Mayor Barry & Councilor Latina)

Power Point Attachment #1 (Double click on picture to view contents):



Wethersfield Board of Education Budget Fiscal Year 2016-2017

**Approved by the Wethersfield Board of Education
March 8, 2016**

**Presented to Town Council
March 21, 2016**

Power Point attachment #2 (Double click on picture to view contents):



FY 2016-2017

**Town of Wethersfield
Proposed Budget**